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Baker

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(54) **WATER PEDESTAL**

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137/382

(58) **Field of Search** **137/363, 364,**
137/371, 377, 382, 294

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A water pedestal for supplying water to a recreational vehicle. The water pedestal includes a housing having a tubular wall, an open lower end and an open upper end. A flexible conduit is located substantially within the housing, the flexible conduit having a lower end extending below said open lower end of said housing and adapted to be attached to an underground water main. The flexible conduit has an upper end attached to a ball valve. The flexible conduit is formed into a loop between the upper and lower ends thereof. A rigid conduit communicate the ball valve with an anti-syphon hose bib. The hose bib includes a rigid pipe and a faucet attached to the outer end of the rigid pipe, the rigid pipe extending through the wall of the water pedestal housing adjacent the upper end of the housing. A tubular slip sleeve is located within the housing and attached to the tubular wall of the housing at a mid-portion thereof. The tubular slip sleeve is positioned around the loop of flexible conduit and holds it in place within the housing. A cap is removably attached to the open upper end of the housing.

15 Claims, 2 Drawing Sheets

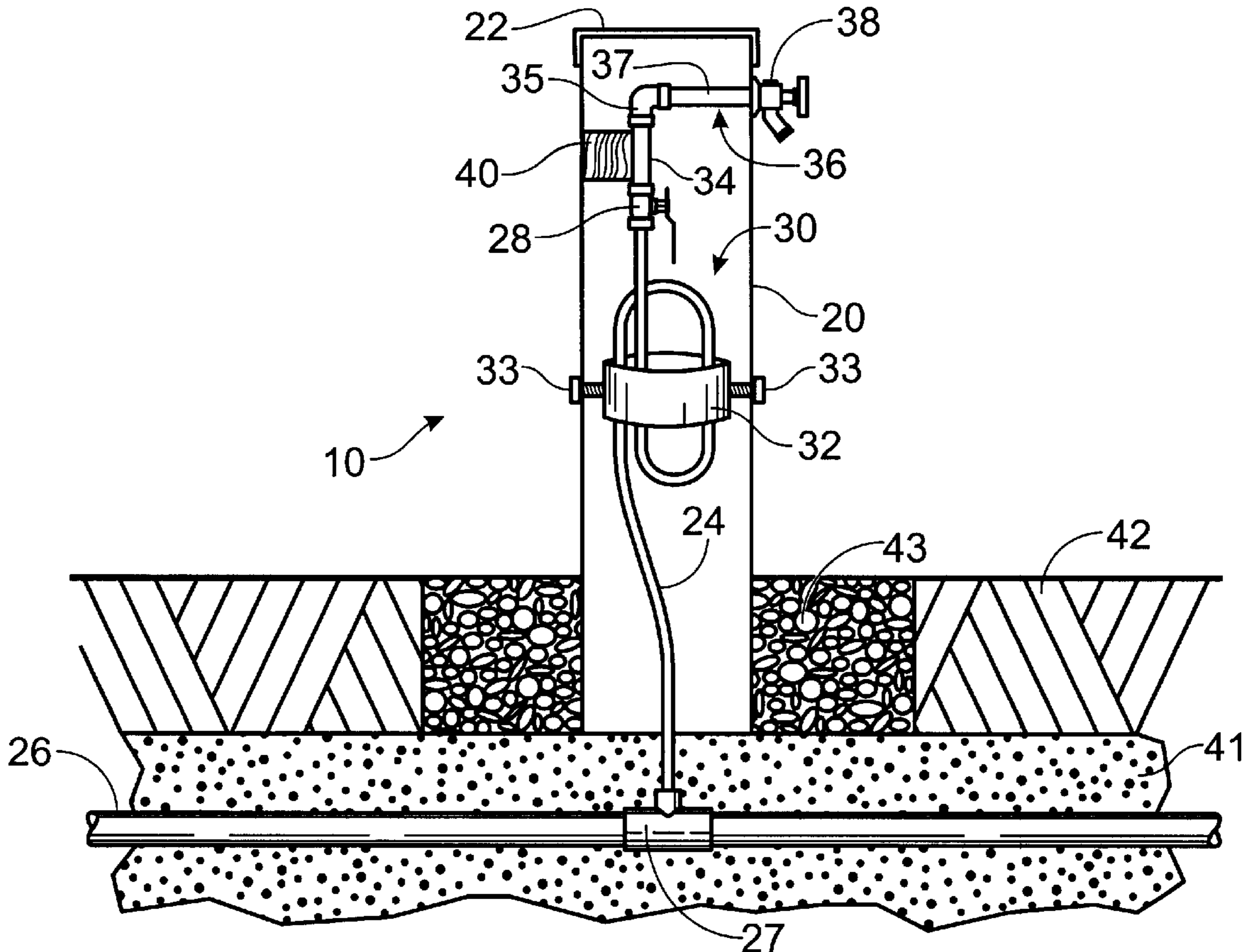


Fig. 1

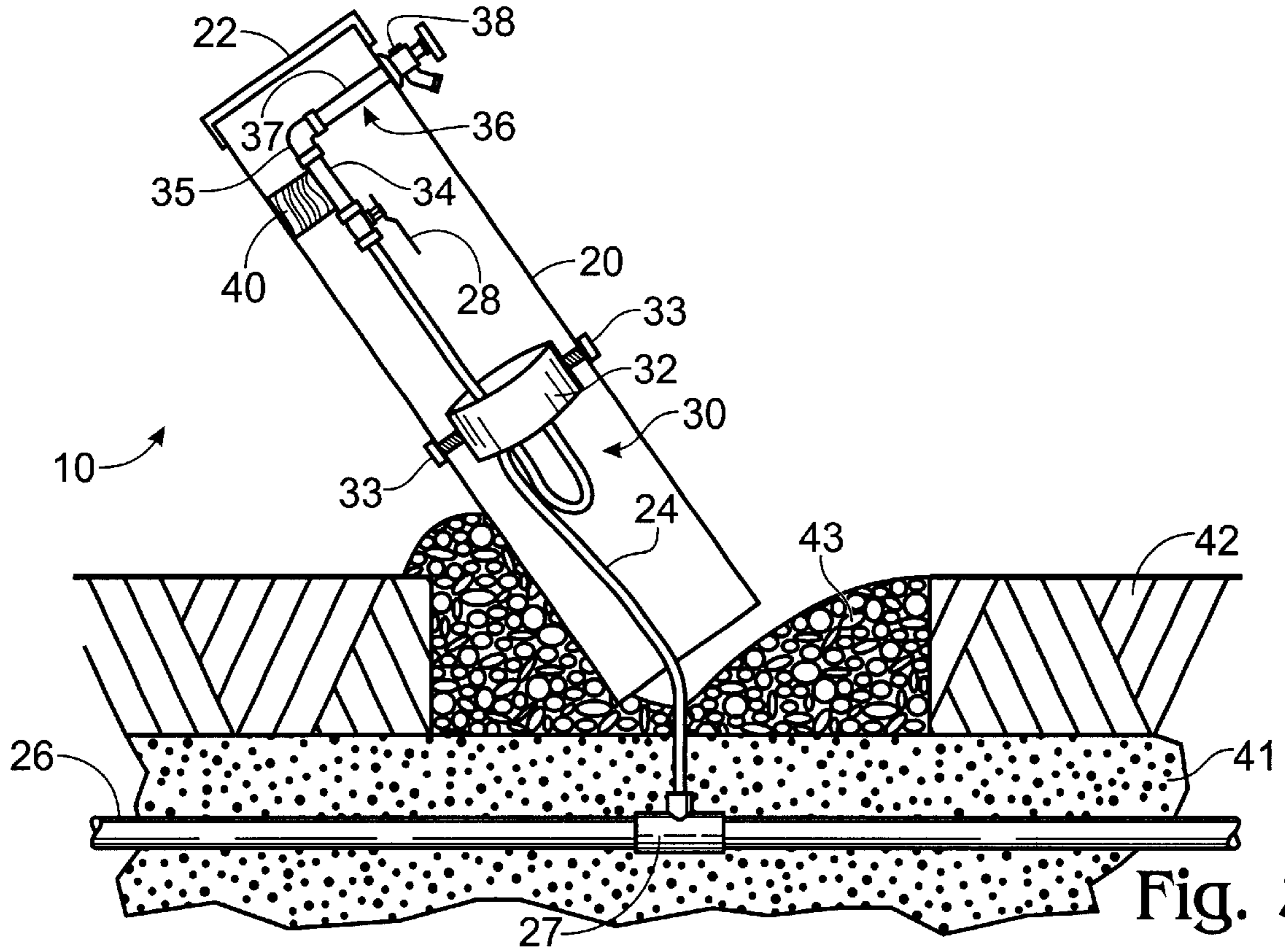
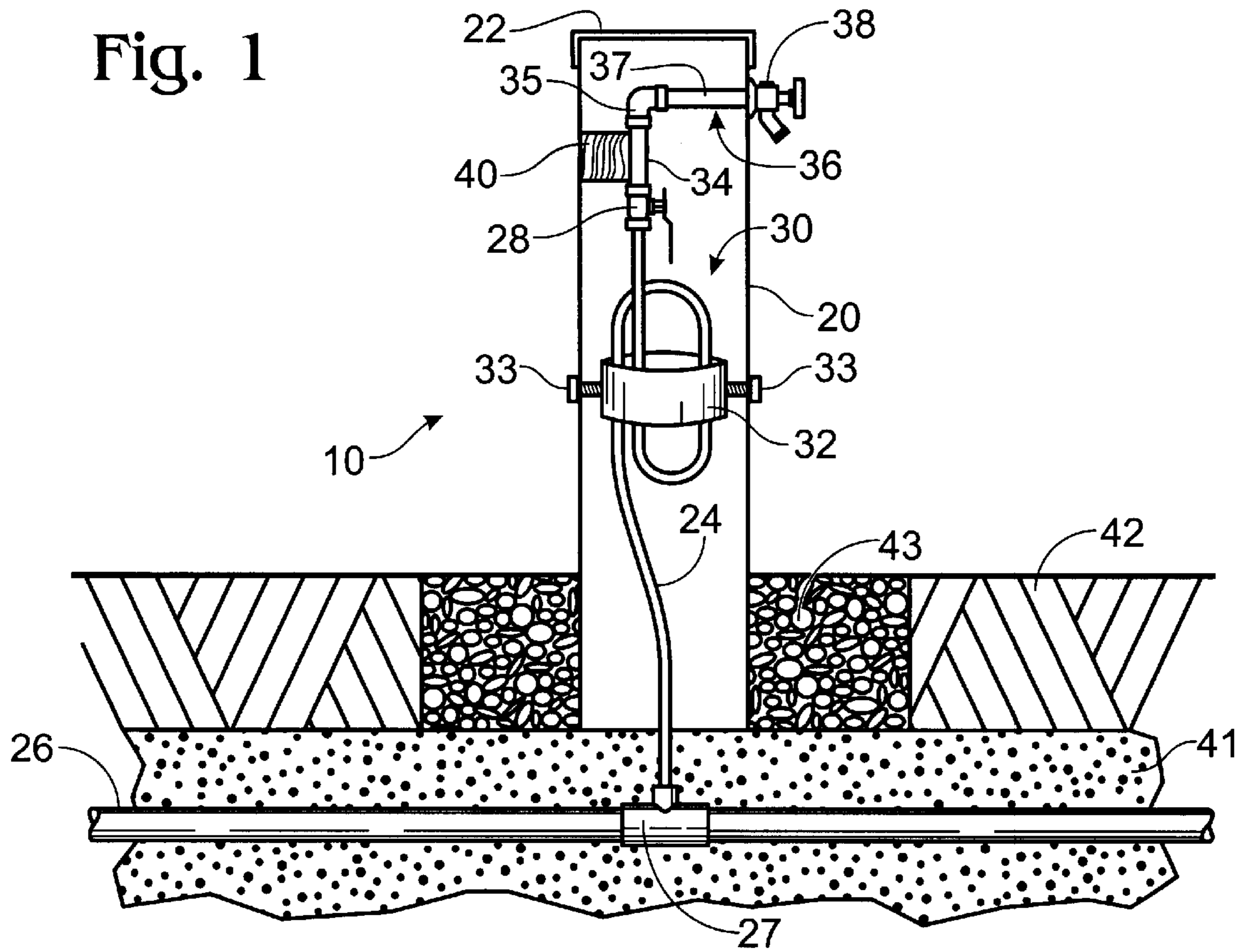
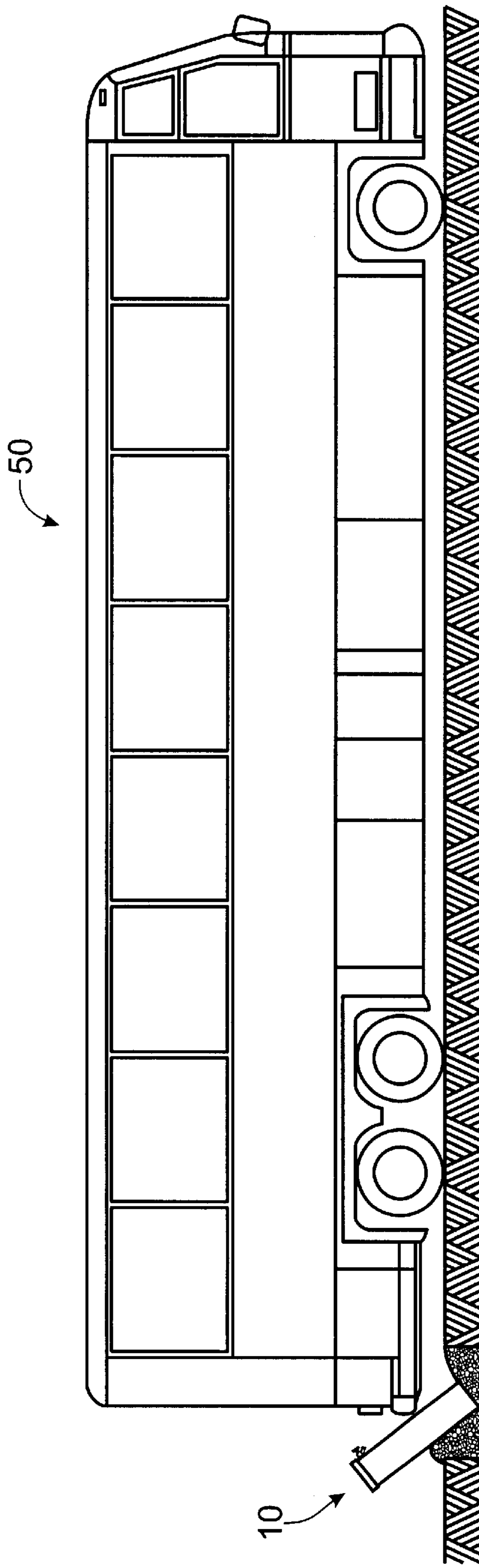


Fig. 3

Fig. 2



WATER PEDESTAL

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to a water pedestal for providing a water hookup for recreational vehicles that is resistant to damage from accidental collisions.

Many RV parks provide a water hookup that is a faucet or hose bib located below ground level. Such below ground level installations can fill with water or contain insects or small reptiles, and require the user to get down on his or her hands and knees to attach a hose.

Where above ground level installations are used, they typically are merely pipes extending upwardly from the underground water main with a faucet on the upper end. In parking recreational vehicles it is not uncommon for the driver to inadvertently bump into such a pipe and cause a rupture between the pipe and the water main. The rupture causes minor flooding and requires the services of a plumber to fix.

SUMMARY OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

It is an object of the present invention to provide a water pedestal that provides a water hookup that is easier to access and which can sustain low speed impacts without rupturing the connection to the water main.

This and other objects are achieved by a water pedestal that includes a housing having a tubular wall, an open lower end and an open upper end.

A flexible conduit is located substantially within the housing, the flexible conduit having a lower end extending below the open lower end of the housing and adapted to be attached to an underground water main.

The flexible conduit has an upper end attached to a ball valve. Rigid conduit means communicate the ball valve with an anti-syphon hose bib. The hose bib includes a rigid pipe and a faucet attached to the outer end of the rigid pipe, the rigid pipe extending through the wall of the water pedestal housing adjacent the upper end of the housing.

The flexible conduit has a length that is about twice the distance between its connection to the underground water main and the ball valve. This excess length allows a loop to be formed between the lower and upper ends thereof.

A slip sleeve is located within the housing and attached to the tubular wall of the housing at a mid-portion thereof. The loop of the flexible conduit is placed within the slip sleeve and held in place therein.

A cap is removably attached to the open upper end of the housing.

In use the lower end of the housing is surrounded by a non-packing filler material, such as round rock having a diameter between about 0.25 inch and about 2.0 inches. In the event the water pedestal is struck at a low speed by a recreational vehicle, the housing will tilt backwards within the non-packing filler material, and the resulting force acting on the flexible conduit will cause part of the excess length thereof contained in the loop to be pulled downwardly, thereby preventing a rupture at the connection between the flexible conduit and the water main.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a side elevation view of the water pedestal system of the present invention, in its operational mode;

FIG. 2 is a side elevation view of the water pedestal of the present invention shown after having been partially knocked over by a recreational vehicle; and

FIG. 3 is an enlarged side elevation view of the water pedestal of the present invention shown in its partially knocked over position.

DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The water pedestal **10** of the present invention includes a housing **20** having a tubular wall. Housing **20** is preferably cylindrical in shape. However, housing **20** may be other tubular shapes, such as one having a rectangular or square cross-section.

Housing **20** is open at both ends and has a cap **22** removably attached to its upper end. Housing **20** and cap **22** may be made of any weather resistant material, such as PVC (polyvinyl chloride).

Inside water pedestal housing **20** is a flexible water conduit **24** which is adapted to be attached at its lower end to underground water main **26** via attachment fitting **27**, and attached at its upper end to the inlet side of ball valve **28**.

Flexible water conduit **24** has a length that is about twice the distance between its connection at fitting **27** to underground water main **26** and its connection to ball valve **28**, as shown in FIG. 1. The excess length of flexible conduit **24** is gathered into a loop **30** between its upper and lower ends, substantially at its mid-section.

Loop **30** is held in place within housing **20** by tubular slip sleeve **32**. Slip sleeve **32** is preferably a cylinder that has a diameter that is smaller (e.g., a diameter of about 8 inches) than the diameter of housing **20** (e.g., a diameter of about 12 inches). Slip sleeve **32** is centrally located within housing **20** at approximately the mid-point between the upper and lower ends of housing **20**, slip sleeve **32** and housing **20** being substantially coaxial. Slip sleeve **32** is held in place by any suitable means attached to housing **20**, such as bolts **33** passing through the walls of housing **20** and slip sleeve **32**, bolts **33** having washers and nuts (not shown) attached to the inner ends of bolts **33**. Preferably there are two bolts **33**, and they are diametrically opposed.

The outlet side of ball valve **28** is connected to the lower end of rigid nipple **34**. The upper end of nipple **34** is attached to rigid elbow **35**.

An anti-syphon hose bib **36** is attached to elbow **35**. Hose bib **36** includes a rigid pipe section **37** with a faucet **38** attached to its outer end. Rigid pipe section **37** passes through the wall of housing **20** adjacent its upper end with faucet **38** being located outside housing **20**.

The height of faucet **38** above the ground is selected to be user friendly and clean, i.e., at a height which can vary from about 12 inches to about 32 inches above the ground. Such a height requires little or no bending for a person of average height.

The outer face of a spacer member **40** is attached to the inner wall of pedestal housing **20** by any suitable attachment means, such as screws (not shown). Nipple **34** is attached to the inner face of spacer member **40** by any suitable means, such as conventional U-shaped pipe stabilizer braces, not shown. Spacer member **40** can be made of any suitable material, but wood is preferred since it readily accepts screws.

Water pedestal **10** will typically be installed at the time water main **26** is laid out in the RV park. Flexible conduit attachment fittings **27** are installed at appropriate locations along the water main **26**, only one of which is shown in FIGS. 1 and 3. Flexible conduit **24** is attached to attachment fitting **27** vertically, as shown, and the system tested for

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leaks. The water main **26** is covered with a suitable back fill material **41** to a sub grade height that is about twelve inches below the top of finish grade material **42**.

Water pedestal housing **20** is positioned on top of the sub grade with flexible conduit **24** substantially centered, as shown in FIG. **1**. A non-packing filler material **43**, such as round rock having a diameter between about 0.25 inch and about 2.0 inches, is then placed around water pedestal housing **20** for a surrounding distance of about one foot and to a depth that is substantially the same as the depth of finish grade material **42**, i.e., about one foot.

If necessary, cap **22** is removed and loop **30** is expanded to take up any slack in the lower portion of flexible conduit **24**. Cap **22** is then replaced.

The foregoing is a description of the installation of a water pedestal **10** that is substantially pre-assembled. If water pedestal **10** is not pre-assembled, it can be assembled on site by first attaching flexible conduit **24** to flexible conduit attachment fitting **27**, and then attaching ball valve **28**, nipple **34**, hose bib **36** and faucet **38** together in a leak-proof manner, checking for leaks along the way. Slip sleeve **32** is attached to the housing **20**, such as by nuts and bolts. The housing **20** and slip sleeve **32** is then arranged over hose bib **36**, elbow **35**, nipple **34**, ball valve **28** and flexible conduit **24**. A loop **30** is formed above the slip sleeve **32** and inserted into slip sleeve **32**, making adjustments in loop **30** to take up any slack in the upper or lower portions of flexible conduit **24**. Cap **22** is then placed on the top of housing **20**.

In colder climates, it is desirable that insulation be placed inside housing **20** and around the various water carrying parts. For example, packing peanuts could be dumped into housing **20**.

FIG. **2** shows a recreational vehicle **50** that has bumped into water pedestal **10**. Upon impact, typically at a very slow backing up speed, housing **20** tilts backward in the non-packing material **43**, as best seen in the enlarged view shown in FIG. **3**. Flexible conduit **24**, being attached at its inner end to flexible conduit attachment fitting **27**, would normally be pulled away from attachment fitting **27**, rupturing the connection. However, the force of the impact acting against housing **20** and flexible conduit **24** causes flexible conduit **24** to pull out some of the excess flexible conduit contained in loop **30**, thereby preventing rupturing forces from developing at the point where the flexible conduit **24** is attached to attachment fitting **27**.

Repair consists of merely removing the non-packing material **43**, standing water pedestal **10** back up in the vertical position shown in FIG. **1**, removing cap **22**, pulling up excess flexible conduit **24** into loop **30**, and replacing non-packing material **43** and cap **22**.

While the invention has been described relative to a pedestal for providing a water hookup for recreational vehicles, the pedestal may also include an electric power hookup, a telephone line hookup, a compressed air outlet, etc.

It will be obvious to those having skill in the art that many changes may be made to the details of the above-described embodiments of this invention without departing from the underlying principles thereof. The scope of the present invention should, therefore, be determined only by the following claims.

The invention claimed is:

1. A water pedestal comprising:

a housing having a tubular wall and open lower and upper ends;

a flexible conduit located within said housing, said flexible conduit having a lower end extending below said

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open lower end of said housing, said lower end of said flexible conduit being adapted to be attached to an underground water main, said upper end of said flexible conduit being attached to a ball valve, said flexible conduit being formed into a loop between said upper and lower ends thereof;

a rigid conduit communicating said ball valve with an anti-syphon hose bib, said anti-syphon hose bib including a rigid pipe having inner and outer ends and a faucet attached to said outer end of said rigid pipe, said rigid pipe of said anti-syphon hose bib extending through the tubular wall of said housing adjacent the upper end of said housing;

a tubular slip sleeve located within said housing and attached to said tubular wall of said housing at a mid-portion thereof;

said slip sleeve being positioned around said loop in said flexible conduit to thereby hold said loop in place within said housing; and

a cap removably attached to said open upper end of said housing.

2. The water pedestal of claim **1** wherein said housing has a cylindrical wall.

3. The water pedestal of claim **1** wherein said slip sleeve is cylindrical.

4. The water pedestal of claim **1** wherein said flexible conduit has a length that is about twice the distance between said water main and said ball valve.

5. The water pedestal of claim **1** wherein said rigid conduit means includes a nipple having a lower end attached to said ball valve and an upper end attached to an elbow.

6. The water pedestal of claim **5** including a spacer member having inner and outer faces, said spacer member being located between said nipple and said tubular wall of said housing, the outer face of said spacer member being attached to said tubular wall of said housing and the inner face of said spacer member being attached to said nipple.

7. A water pedestal system comprising:

a housing having a tubular wall and open lower and upper ends, said open lower end being positioned above an underground water main and surrounded by a non-packing filler material;

a flexible conduit located within said housing, said flexible conduit having a lower end extending below said open lower end of said housing, said lower end of said flexible conduit being attached to said underground water main, said upper end of said flexible conduit being attached to a ball valve, said flexible conduit being formed into a loop between said lower and upper ends thereof;

a rigid conduit communicating said ball valve with an anti-syphon hose bib, said anti-syphon hose bib including a rigid pipe having inner and outer ends and a faucet attached to said outer end of said rigid pipe, said rigid pipe of said anti-syphon hose bib extending through the tubular wall of said housing adjacent the upper end of said housing;

a tubular slip sleeve located within said housing and attached to said tubular wall of said housing at a mid-portion thereof;

said slip sleeve being positioned around said loop in said flexible conduit to thereby hold said loop in place within said housing; and

a cap removably attached to said open upper end of said housing.

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8. The water pedestal system of claim 7 wherein said housing has a cylindrical wall.

9. The water pedestal system of claim 7 wherein said slip sleeve is cylindrical.

10. The water pedestal system of claim 7 wherein said flexible conduit has a length that is about twice the distance between said water main and said ball valve.

11. The water pedestal system of claim 7 wherein said non-packing filler material is round rock having a diameter of between about 0.25 inch and about 2.0 inches.

12. The water pedestal system of claim 7 wherein said non-packing filler material has a depth of about one foot.

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13. The water pedestal system of claim 7 wherein said faucet is positioned a distance above ground level which permits a user to attach a hose thereto without any substantial bending.

14. The water pedestal of claim 7 wherein said rigid conduit means includes a nipple having a lower end attached to said ball valve and an upper end attached to an elbow.

15. The water pedestal of claim 14 including a spacer member having inner and outer faces, said spacer member being located between said nipple and said tubular wall of said housing, the outer face of said spacer member being attached to said tubular wall of said housing and the inner face of said spacer member being attached to said nipple.

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